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HIGHLIGHTS:

Onion Production
Egg Production
Livestock Slaughter
Agricultural Prices

Milk Production
Commercial Fruit Production
Cold Storage
US Cattle on Feed
Wool Production

Onion Production

UTAH: Onion growers produced 1.3 million hundredweight (cwt) of summer storage onions during 1999. This was 19 percent above the 1998 level and 13 percent above 1997. In 1999, farmers planted 2,800 acres and harvested 2,700 acres. The 1999 yield of 465 cwt per acre was 25 cwt per acre above the previous year. The preliminary 1999 Utah price estimate was \$6.00 per cwt compared with \$11.00 in 1998 and \$8.84 in 1997. The preliminary total crop value for 1999 is \$6.8 million compared with \$10.5 million the previous year and \$8.5 million in 1997.

UNITED STATES: Summer storage onion production was 54.0 million cwt, up 8 percent from the previous year. The preliminary national price was \$9.00 per cwt, a \$3.13 decrease from the 1998 price. Total value of summer storage onions was 419.7 million dollars, down 21 percent from 1998.

Egg Production

UTAH: Egg production for the year ending November 30, 1999 totaled 521 million eggs, up 9 percent from 1998. Layer numbers during 1999 averaged 1.9 million, up 5 percent from the previous year. The annual average production for 1999 was 272 eggs per layer, 10 eggs per layer more than 1998.

Total Utah chicken inventory on December 1, 1999 totaled 2.9 million, up 31 percent from December 1, 1998. The average value per head was \$1.40, twenty cents less than December 1, 1998. The 1999 inventory value was \$4.0 million, up 15 percent from 1998.

UNITED STATES: Egg production during the year

ending November 30, 1999 totaled a record high 82.7 billion eggs, up 4 percent from the previous year's total of 79.7 billion eggs. Table egg production, at 69.8 billion eggs, increased 4 percent from 1998. Hatching egg production, at 12.9 billion eggs, increased 4 percent. Layer numbers during 1999 averaged 322 million, up 3 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1999 was 257 eggs, compared with the 1998 average of 255 eggs per layer. The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 1999 (excluding commercial broilers) was 436 million birds, up 3 percent from last year.

Livestock Slaughter

UTAH: Commercial red meat production totaled 37.6 million pounds in December 1999, up 1.3 percent from December 1998, but down 8.3 percent from November 1999.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in December, down 2 percent from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in December 1998. Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year and slightly above the previous record high for December set in 1976. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.88 million head, down 1 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds. Veal production totaled 21.0 million pounds, 6 percent below the previous record low for December set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 113 thousand head, down 13 percent from December 1998. The average live weight was 25 pounds above last year, at 303 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.89 million head, 6 percent below 1998. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 261 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, was up 1 percent from December 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 356 thousand head, slightly above last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

Agricultural Prices

UTAH: Crop prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-January were down for barley, and unchanged for alfalfa hay and other hay.

Barley, at \$1.88 per bushel, was down two cents from the previous month's price and one cent higher than January 1999. Baled alfalfa hay was \$75.00 per ton, the same as last month and the same as January 1999. Other hay, at \$35.00 per ton, was unchanged from last month but \$15.00 lower than January 1999.

The lamb price for December 1999 was \$82.00 per cwt, down \$3.00 from November, and up \$17.00 from December of last year. The December 1999 sheep price at \$29.00, was \$4.00 more than November, up \$4.00 from December of last year.

Monthly milk price estimates have been discontinued in Utah as of January 2000.

UNITED STATES: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 90 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (2.2 percent) from the December index. Lower prices for broilers, milk, turkeys, and tomatoes more than offset price increases for corn, lettuce, soybeans, and cotton. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cotton, tobacco, grapes, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively higher marketings of corn, soybeans, cattle, and rice. These marketing changes account for one point of the January index decrease.

Compared with January 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.2 percent) lower. Price decreases from January 1999 for milk, soybeans, cotton, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, lettuce, and apples.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Utah			United States		
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
		Jan 1999	Dec 1999	Jan 2000 ^{1/}	Jan 1999	Dec 1999	Jan 2000 ^{1/}
Livestock & Products							
Lambs	Dol/Cwt	69.00	82.00	<u>2/</u>	68.20	77.60	<u>2/</u>
Sheep	Dol/Cwt	27.00	29.00	<u>2/</u>	32.40	33.40	<u>2/</u>
Milk, All ^{3/}	Dol/Cwt	17.50	11.40	<u>4/</u>	17.40	12.20	11.90
(Fat test)	Percent	3.75	3.77	<u>4/</u>	3.77	3.80	3.79
Fluid Grade ^{5/}	Dol/Cwt	17.70	11.50	<u>4/</u>	17.50	12.20	12.00
(Fat test)	Percent	3.74	3.76	<u>4/</u>	3.77	3.79	3.79
Mfg Grade	Dol/Cwt	15.80	10.40	<u>4/</u>	15.30	10.70	10.70
(Fat test)	Percent	3.79	3.87	<u>4/</u>	3.90	3.96	3.94
Crops							
Barley	Dol/Bu	1.87	1.90	1.88	1.89	2.24	2.19
Alfalfa Hay, Baled ^{6/}	Dol/Ton	75.00	75.00	75.00	81.40	73.20	74.10
Other Hay, Baled ^{6/}	Dol/Ton	50.00	35.00	35.00	70.60	65.90	65.90

^{1/} Prices refer to sales occurring about the 15th of the month, except for milk. Prices for milk are an estimate for the full month. ^{2/} January data will be published next month. ^{3/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. ^{4/} Discontinued in Utah as of January 2000. ^{5/} Includes milk diverted to manufacturing. ^{6/} Mid-month prices.

Milk Production

UTAH: Milk production during the fourth quarter of 1999 totaled 403 million pounds, up 5.8 percent from the same quarter of 1998. The number of milk cows during the October-December quarter averaged 93,000 head, the same as the fourth quarter of 1998. Milk per cow was 4,333 pounds, up 236 pounds from the previous year.

UNITED STATES: The quarterly production of milk was 40.4 billion pounds, 3.8 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.18 million head, 41,000 head more than the same period last year. Milk per cow averaged 4,405 pounds, up 144 pounds from the same quarter of 1998.

Commercial Fruit Production

UTAH: The 1999 utilized production for apples, sweet cherries, tart cherries, pears, and peaches was down from the previous year.

Utilized apple production in 1999 totaled 12 million pounds compared with 31 million pounds during 1998 and 41 million pounds in 1997. Sweet cherry utilized production was 1,150 tons in 1999 compared with 2,700 tons the previous year. Tart cherry utilized production totaled 14.5 million pounds, 12.5 million pounds below 1998 but 0.5 million pounds above 1997. Peach utilized production totaled 6.2 million pounds compared with 7.0 million pounds a year earlier. Pear utilized production totaled 295 tons, down 575 tons from 1998. Apricot

utilized production was too low to estimate in 1999 due to spring frost. Preliminary value of production for Utah's 1999 fruit crop and percent change from 1998 were as follows: apples, \$3.0 million, down 33 percent; sweet cherries, \$1.1 million, down 38 percent; peaches \$2.0 million, up 8 percent; and pears, \$135,000, down 49 percent.

UNITED STATES: Nationally, 1999 utilized fruit production compared with 1998 as follows: apples, down 2 percent; apricots, down 16 percent; sweet cherries, up 7 percent; tart cherries, down 17 percent; peaches, excluding California Clingstone, up 8 percent; and pears, up 3 percent.

Fruit: Acreage, Yield, Production, Use, and Value, Utah, 1997-99

Year	Bearing Acreage	Yield per Acre ^{1/}	Production				Utilization		Price per Pound	Value of Utilized Production
			Total	Unutilized		Utilized	Fresh	Processed		
				Un-Harvested	Harvested not sold					
Acres		Pounds	Million Pounds				Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
COMMERCIAL APPLES										
1997	2,800	15,000	42.0	1.0		41.0	34.0	7.0	0.165	6,747
1998	2,800	17,500	49.0	17.0	1.0	31.0	26.0	5.0	0.145	4,480
1999	2,800	4,290	12.0			12.0	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	0.250	3,000
TART CHERRIES										
1997	2,800	6,250	17.5	2.0	1.5	14.0		14.0	0.160	2,240
1998	2,800	11,800	33.0	6.0		27.0		27.0	0.160	4,320
1999	2,800	5,360	15.0	0.5		14.5		14.5	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
PEACHES										
1997	1,300	6,230	8.1	0.2	0.3	7.6	7.6		0.270	2,052
1998	1,300	5,920	7.7	0.4	0.3	7.0	7.0		0.270	1,890
1999	1,300	5,000	6.5		0.3	6.2	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	0.328	2,034

^{1/} Yield is based on total production. ^{2/} Estimates available July 7, 2000. ^{3/} Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Fruit: Acreage, Yield, Production, Use, and Value, Utah, 1997-99

Year	Bearing Acreage	Yield per Acre ^{1/}	Production				Utilization		Price per Ton	Value of Utilized Production
			Total	Unutilized		Utilized	Fresh	Processed		
				Un-Harvested	Harvested not sold					
Acres		Pounds	Tons				Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
APRICOTS ^{2/}										
1997			130			130			492	64
1998			200	20		180			728	131
1999 ^{3/}										
SWEET CHERRIES										
1997	600	1.20	720	20		700	420	280	920	644
1998	600	4.67	2,800	100		2,700	800	1,900	687	1,854
1999	600	2.00	1,200	50		1,150	800	350	999	1,149
PEARS										
1997	180	3.89	700	25	25	650	650		586	381
1998	180	5.00	900	28	2	870	870		307	267
1999	180	1.67	300	3	2	295			458	135

^{1/} Yield is based on total production. ^{2/} Missing data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. ^{3/} No significant commercial production due to freeze damage.

U.S. Cold Storage

Stocks in Cold Storage, United States

Commodity	Dec 31, 1998	Nov 30, 1999	Dec 31, 1999
1,000 Pounds			
Total Frozen			
Eggs	11,034	8,454	10,135
Chickens	717,349	795,239	802,922
Turkeys	304,309	252,271	252,167
Cherries, Tart			
RSP	122,205	125,343	116,356
Juice	3,225	2,249	2,029
Cherries, Sweet ..	16,208	13,085	12,849
Potatoes	1,151,294	1,254,531	1,151,997
Beef	296,423	308,936	313,962
Pork	503,509	422,535	415,872
Lamb & Mutton ...	11,721	9,446	8,749
Total in Storage			
Apples, Fresh	5,008,456	5,523,889	4,657,999
Butter	25,910	30,184	25,965
Cheese, Natural ..	517,215	591,722	610,736
American	407,692	448,250	446,612
Swiss	11,838	9,075	8,346
Other Natural ...	97,685	134,397	155,778

U.S. Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.46 million head on January 1, 2000. The inventory was 7 percent above January 1, 1999 and 3 percent above January 1, 1998. The inventory included 6.83 million steers and steer calves,

up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.56 million head, up 10 percent from January 1, 1999. **Placements** in feedlots during December totaled 1.65 million, 9 percent above 1998 and 6 percent above 1997. Net placements were 1.56 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 465,000, 600-699 pounds were 498,000, 700-799 pounds were 422,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 261,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during December totaled 1.84 million, 1 percent above 1998 and 5 percent above 1997. **Other disappearance** totaled 90,000 during December, 6 percent above both 1998 and 1997.

Wool Production

UTAH: Wool production totaled 3.0 million pounds during 1999, down 5 percent from 1998. Total sheep shorn during 1999, at 320,000 head was 5 percent below the 1998 level. The 1999 average fleece weight was 9.4 pounds, the same as 1998. The average price of wool in 1999 was \$0.32 per pound, 30 cents below the 1998 price, and the lowest price since the 26 cents of 1972. Lower prices and lower production resulted in the lower total value of all wool produced during 1999 of \$963,000, down from \$2.0 million in 1998.

UNITED STATES: Shorn wool production during 1999 was 46.5 million pounds, down 5 percent from 1998. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 6.15 million head, a decrease of 4 percent from 1998. The average price paid for wool sold in 1999 was \$0.38 per pound for a total value of \$17.9 million dollars, down 39 percent from \$29.4 million dollars in 1998.